of the high expenditure involved. This is a matter which requires further consideration.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

14. General Administration—Rs. 1,44,387

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move for a demand of Rs. 1,44,387 under "14—General Administration." In making this demand, I wish to make a few observations on the criticisms of the budget that have been levelled in the course of the last two days on the floor of this House. At the outset, I must thank the hon'ble members for the very constructive criticisms *(hear, hear)* that they have made on the floor of this House on General Administration. It is not jokingly that I say that the criticisms were constructive. In fact, we have been following the criticisms with considerable interest and we have been very much profited by these criticisms. I shall just try to touch and explain a few points which have been dealt with at considerable length by some of the hon'ble members.

The industrial policy of the State was touched upon by some members. It was pointed out that the State was not pursuing a national industry policy and that our industrial policy was very short-sighted. I must admit that our experience in the line of State-owned and State-managed industries has not been very encouraging. It has not been very encouraging as testified to by the Potteries and the Tanneries. We are also aware that two courses are open in the matter of industries. One is the State owning and managing the industrial concerns and the other is State aid to industries. We are now following the latter course, and with the introduction of cheap energy from the Pallivasal Hydro-electric scheme, we hope that an era of industrialisation in our State will follow and it is our fond hope that private men will come up with sound industrial undertakings. It will always be the endeavour of our State to help them within the purview of the State Aid to Industries Act. In the meantime, we are very much encouraging the cottage industries of the State by the grant of subsidies and grants and this is an activity which is very vigorously followed by the Hon'ble Minister.

The next point I wish to touch upon is about the Harbour. The appointments in the Harbour have been very much criticised on the floor of this House. We appreciate your criticisms and we understand your anxiety about it. But I must submit that the Harbour Authorities had not been so very unfair to us as has been attempted to be made out on the floor of this House. I have furnished figures with respect to this and I must also point out that we have made most vigorous representations to the authorities concerned in this direction, and we hope that better fruits will be borne as a

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result of these representations. Things as they stand are not very discouraging. But I hope that they will be more encouraging.

As for the laws of the State not being made applicable to the Harbour, we are at one with you. We share your anxieties. We are also thankful for the careful vigilance you are exercising in matters of this kind. But here again, the Cochin Government have not been sleeping partners. I submit that we have made earnest representations to the Government of India and the authorities concerned and we are waiting for their decisions in these matters. It is probably without knowing the endeavours that we have made in these directions that you have given vent to such feelings on the floor of this House. I can assure you that we will pursue our representations and we will not sit quiet till decisions are arrived at on these important matters. But the decisions must come from higher authorities and we must take the decisions as and when they are given.

Much was said here about the so-called pitiable condition of the labourers of the State. We are thankful to the Hon'ble Members for this criticism. The conditions in the S. O. C. and the Potteries were called to our attention to bring home to us how miserable is the plight of the labourers in the State. We have yet to know that the conditions are so bad and we never knew of any such agitation in this matter as has been depicted on the floor of this House. We are thankful to the members for bringing to our attention all these things. We only want that members should not be carried away by the impression that we are deaf to representations and that we are not taking any interest in the affairs of the labour population. In fact, as could be seen from our statute books, very many laws have been introduced by our State to protect the interests of the labourers and a Labour Commissioner has also been appointed to watch the interests of the labourers and to settle the relationship as between the labourer and the employer. If only proper representations are made to our Labour Commissioner and to the other officers of Government such as the District Magistrate, the Police Commissioner, the Chief Engineer and the Director of Public Health and Panchayats who have something or other to do with the labour questions in our State, we are sure that things would have been considerably better. We are thankful to the hon'ble member Mr. Kutty for bringing to our notice the condition of labour and it is our fond hope that our officers will pay proper attention in these matters.

It was pointed out by one Hon'ble Member, I believe it was Mr. Peter of Palluruthi, that Government were adopting a step-

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motherly attitude towards the Public Works Department; and he quoted also the figures of 1106 to prove his case. It is true that in 1106 there was an abnormal provision of about 17½ lakhs of rupees under P.W.D. It is also true that in subsequent years the figures have not kept up to this. But the comparison of the figures with those of 1106 is somewhat misleading. In 1106, extraordinary provisions had to be made for works of huge magnitude like the Ramavarmapuram Hostel buildings and the College buildings at Ernakulam, and that accounted for the high provision in 1106 under P. W. D. I can point out to the hon'ble member that our usual provision under P. W. D. is only between 10 and 11 lakhs of rupees and this has been uniformly provided and even this year we have provided for about 11·75 lakhs of rupees under P. W. D. In considering the figures of the P.W.D. we must also take into consideration the amount we have set apart for capital works which have all to be attended to by the P. W. D. The figures under the P. W. D. should always be real with the provisions made under public utility concerns like Education and Medicine which in 1106 was about 13 lakhs under Education and 3 lakhs under Medicine. Today they stand at the available figure of about 20 lakhs and 6 lakhs of rupees respectively, and all these extra provisions have to be made from an almost inelastic source of revenue. Our revenue in 1106 was only about 96 lakhs, whereas it is today about 109 lakhs of rupees. When figures are compared in this way, it will be seen that we have never taken a step-motherly attitude towards the P. W. D. and that we have taken a very commendable attitude towards the public utility departments.

I must now turn on to one observation made by the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi. He has been deploring that the accumulated surpluses of the time of Diwan Mr. Narayana Ayyar have all been spent up by two succeeding Diwans and that we had to float loans as if the Cochin Government's financial condition is in bankruptcy. It is true we had a very heavy surplus at the close of the regime of Mr. Narayana Ayyar. It is also true that we had to float two public loans one in the time of Diwan Mr. Herbert for 75 lakhs of rupees and the other during the time of Diwan Sir Shanmukham for 30 lakhs of rupees. Our public debt stands at 105 lakhs of rupees. It must be remembered that these public debts were incurred for purposes of very reproductive works. The extension of the Railway, the completion of the Fourth Stage Harbour Works, all these required money and these are all reproductive works and thanks to the far-sighted policy of these Diwans and the Government of the time. We are now getting about 25 per cent of our revenues from the Harbour on the one side and a decent return of about 5 and odd per cent from the Railway. These loans and the expenditure of the surpluses

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should not, therefore, be deplored. They should be appreciated and warmly praised. I may add, that thanks to their policies we stand today at an enviable position of having a net surplus of about 127 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: You get 5 per cent from the Railway. May I know whether that is on the consolidated sum that has been spent on the Railway or only upon the conversion?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Upon the conversion.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: If the amount spent on the Railway originally is also added on, this 5 per cent will dwindle.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: So much about the loans. Now, I must come to the cyclone. About the cyclone I am not going to touch on all the details of the cyclone and relief scheme, but I want to touch only upon one aspect of the question. It was adverted to by Mr. T. K. Nayar. He was pleased to say yesterday that we must expedite our activities in disbursing these loans which have already been sanctioned, so that they may be of real relief to the agriculturists everywhere. I am glad to say that Government have just now sanctioned sufficient staff for expediting these measures of agricultural and house construction loans, and we hope that under the vigilant care of the Diwan Peishkar and the Relief Committee, these amounts will be disbursed soon.

I move that the allotment be sanctioned.

Arrangement of Cut motions—Complaint regarding

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: I had tabled some cut motions on General Administration which do not find a place in the cut motions under the General Administration. I am told that some of them came in time, though a little late. But they were transferred to some other head. I do not know whether the office has power to change the destination.

Mr. President: Some have been received after printing which we did not include. Others have gone to more appropriate heads.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: It is that point that I wish to bring to the President's notice.

Mr. President: Because it was late it was put under other heads which were not printed in order that they might come up. Otherwise it stands the chance of not coming at all.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Hereafter at least budget copies may be sent to us sufficiently early, if the

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